

Work Session of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, August 2, 2017, to discuss the Sustainable Land Care Policy

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The meeting was held in the Room 201 in the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Nicole Ard, Jim Sterling, Brian Townsend, Erin Josephitis, Luisa Robles and Bonita Anderson.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB), Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT), Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES).

Ms. Mach was on travel & Ms. Pope was absent.

Mayor Jordan gave an introduction in preparation of the Sustainable Land Care Policy (SLCP).

Mr. Herling expressed thanks to Ms. Margaret Cahalan and the Green Team.

Staff Report

Director of Public Works Department, Mr. Sterling, gave a status report of the Public Works Department. The Level 3 electric vehicle charging station, which produces a quick charge, was installed at the Municipal Building. Mr. Sterling noted the textile recycling bins in the City which are for recycling clothes and textile. The City was awarded a solar grant for Springhill Lake in the amount of \$58,500. There will be discussion at the Capital Projects Work Session for additional funding.

Mr. Sterling read into the record the introduction and background history of the SLCP. The policy was drafted during the period between 2007-2017. Green ACES recommended establishing operational guidelines to protect the environment and make efficient use of municipal resources. The policy is intended to be a living document, which will be updatable and adaptable along with references and footnotes.

Ms. Josephitis gave an overview of the Areas of Consideration along with the Site Analysis and Design Diversity of planting. She discussed the Plant Care section of the policy and the usage of fertilizers.

Ms. Davis recommended that the Public Works Department revisit the fertilizer section of the policy.

Advisory Group Reports

The Advisory Boards deliberated on Organic Pest Management versus Integrated Pest Management about which are the least toxic and is best for the environment. The staff will have access to educational resources to help promote sustainable landscaping practices. They will

also be required to have the proper training to be certified and licensed, which is regulated by the EPA.

Mr. Lippert and Ms. Cahalan of the Green ACES objected to several items within the policy. The suggestions they had made were removed from the policy and they asked that Public Works reconsider their suggestions. Mr. Sterling acknowledged their comments. Mr. Lippert discussed the implementation of the NOFA.

The Advisory Committee on Trees and the Green Team felt the policy was reasonable.

The Forest Preserve Advisory Board stated that the policy is a step in the right direction and friendlier to the environment. NOFA guidelines are strict.

Ms. Lauren Young noted that the policy is restricted and very parallel for farmers.

Mayor Jordan asked if GHI had a policy in place. It was noted that they do have a policy.

Ms. Barnett (Green ACES) noted that Mr. Joseph “Josh” Hamlin was unable to attend, but he would like to start a pilot program for Organic Land Care.

Mr. Orleans suggested that the Council implement the Sustainable Land Care Policy.

The Public Works staff is certified and their goal is to get as much training as possible. They are open to all options.

Mayor Jordan noted the level of expertise and the knowledge of the citizens and staff. He suggested another meeting in October or November to further address this policy. Ms. Davis agreed that the next discussion should be held before Dec 2017.

Mr. Sterling suggested further review of the policy by the Advisory Boards.

Other

Ms. Davis suggested that the Resolution for lowering the age to vote in the City Election be added to the regular meeting agenda. She gave a report on the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee meeting with COG.

Ms. Ard gave an overview of the agenda for the upcoming August 14th regular meeting and asked for the Council’s approval of the flyer with the City’s logo. The Council approved. The City will have its annual Labor Day parade in September.

Adjournment 10:49 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Bonita Anderson
City Clerk*